



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022

No. 19

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, answer us in our trouble and protect us with Your mercies. We celebrate Your triumphs in our history, believing that victory belongs to You alone. Lord, we have relied on You since the birth of this Nation, and You will always be our God. We have trusted in Your power through the seasons of our lives, so do not abandon us.

Lord, when our lawmakers stumble and fall, help them to rise and stand firm. Continue to rule the nations of Your world.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Bridget Meehan Brennan, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

JANUARY 6

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I couldn't help but think today that the distinguished Presiding Officer and I both had the opportunity to be prosecutors. And I thought today about prosecutors—I listened to what former President Donald Trump said. I listened to him with horror and disbelief, especially when I saw it on television,

and he was obviously reading his words off a teleprompter and knew exactly what he was saying.

He basically said that if he was re-elected, he would be inclined to give Presidential pardons to the people who stormed the U.S. Capitol a year ago, January 6—the people who came in here as insurrectionists; the people who came in here doing enormous damage and injuries; the people who caused many to die; the people who set up a gallows outside the Capitol with a noose on it with Vice President Pence's name on it, saying that if he is not willing to ignore the law and suddenly give the Presidency to Donald Trump, a man who had lost by millions of votes, this is what he deserved, the gallows.

It is the sort of thing that if you saw it in a B-rated horror movie, you would say this is so unbelievable, but here it is real.

You had people committing terrible crimes—destruction of property, injuries to people, trying to kill and eventually did kill police officers. I remember that day, and I am sure the Presiding Officer does, because we were all on the floor of the Senate as the Vice President was rushed off the dais where the Presiding Officer is right now and where I opened the U.S. Senate just minutes ago.

And then, before we knew what was going on, we suddenly saw several other plainclothes police officers come in here and a big one in a uniform carrying a submachine gun with a vest that said "POLICE." We were told we had to leave and go to the safe room and were escorted out by armed police

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S395